

nepal



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Geography & Population

Location: Southern Asia between China and India
Population: 26 million
Area: 147,181 sq km (slightly larger than Arkansas)
Capital city: Kathmandu
Other cities: Biratnagar, Pokhara, Birgunj, Nepalgunj.

Educational System Overview

Students in Nepal take the nationally administered and monitored School Leaving Certificate (SLC) exam at the end of Grade 10. Known as the "Iron Gate" of the Nepali educational system, less than 50% of test takers pass the SLC every year. Students spend the next two years in an Intermediate Level program, a Plus 2 program from the Higher Secondary Examination Board (HSEB), or Proficiency Certificate Level (PCL) program under Tribhuvan University (usually 2 years but sometimes 3), after which the student has similar credentials to an American high school graduate. A few secondary schools in Nepal offer the University of Cambridge (UK)-GCE 'O' and 'A' level degrees.

Bachelor's programs in Nepal are 3 or 4 year programs (5 years for some fields like architecture). Most master's programs in Nepal are 2 years. PhD programs are also available. Students who complete at least a four-year bachelor's in Nepal are eligible to pursue their master's in the US. Some students with a three-year bachelor's complete their master's in Nepal or India and then consider the US for a second master's. Many, however, choose to transfer their credits to an undergraduate program in the US and spend between 1 and 3 years obtaining their bachelor's in the US. The option of transferring into a bachelor's program allows students to gain valuable experience in an American educational setting before embarking on a master's.



FAST FACTS

IIE's *Open Doors 2006* reports that there are **6,061** Nepali students enrolled in US colleges and universities, a **24.7% increase** from the previous year.

In *absolute* numbers, Nepal registers as the **world's third largest increase** (1,200 more students than the previous year)... astounding for a country its size!

Of the total Nepali students in the US, **67% are undergraduate** students and **29% are graduate** students.

Top 10 states for Nepali students:
TX, MN, AL, MA, OH, IA, OK, NY, KS, CA.

Source: *Open Doors 2006: Report on International Education Exchange*, 2006. New York: Institute of International Education.

There are five universities in Nepal: Tribhuvan, Mahendra Sanskrit, Kathmandu, Pokhara and Purbanchal. All are recognized by the Ministry of Education (<http://www.moe.gov.np>) to grant degrees. Apart from Kathmandu University, which is a private university, the other four universities are public. Most colleges in Nepal are affiliated to one of these universities and hence a student graduating from any college in Nepal is issued a degree under the seal of one of the five above mentioned universities.

In terms of grading, most Nepali institutions do not use GPA. Nepal's percentage system and system of 'divisions' do not convert to GPA. Colleges in the US requiring an accurate conversion usually use a US-based credential evaluation agency.

U.S. Educational Foundation in Nepal (USEF-Nepal)

USEF-Nepal via its Educational Advising Center (EAC) serves thousands of Nepali students who walk through its open doors for information, guidance and advice in their pursuit of higher education in the United States. The Educational Advising Center at USEF-Nepal registered over 48,000 visits in 2006. Many of these visits were made by individual students who accessed the center multiple times to use the EAC's diverse facilities, which span from group advising classes for students brand new to the application process to pre-departure orientation sessions for students who have completed the application process and are getting ready to depart for the US. Between first and last steps of the application process, students make use of individual advising, library services, practice tests for computer-based exams, and transcript attestation services. Additionally, USEF-Nepal is currently Nepal's only computer-based testing center for the GRE, USMLE, and other exams, and is a test center for iBT TOEFL. With the combination of services offered, USEF-Nepal can witness up to 300 visitors in a single day.

The following are the services USEF-Nepal offers to students:

- **Group Advising sessions:** weekly information sessions, held free of cost, provide students with general information on application requirements, application procedures, costs, scholarships, and testing.
- **Individual Advising sessions:** Educational Advisers assist students one-on-one with college selection and provide guidance specific to the student's case. Free of cost, these sessions are open four days a week.
- **Library Services:** students may access USEF-Nepal's comprehensive collection of resource books pertinent to studying in the USA, again entirely free of cost.
- **Computer-based testing:** USEF-Nepal is the only computer-based test center in Nepal for GRE, USMLE and other exams. The center also administers the iBT TOEFL.
- **Pre-tests:** A student-designated computer lab hosts practice software for standardized tests.
- **Transcript Attestation:** USEF-Nepal attests copies of academic transcripts for submission to American colleges.
- **Other free information sessions:** During peak student visa application months, USEF-Nepal hosts Student Visa Information Sessions in which US Embassy Consular Officers interact directly with students. The advising center also holds pre-departure orientation sessions every semester for students departing for the United States.



USEF-Nepal in 2006

Student visits:
48,096

In-person
front-desk
inquiries:
39,163

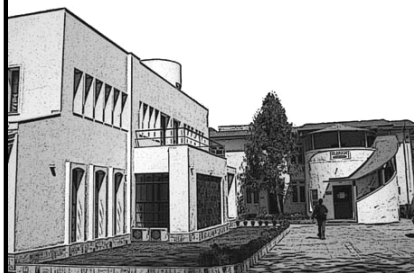
Telephone
enquiries:
21,378

Email
enquiries:
762

Group
advisees:
3,143

Documents
attested:
19,642

Test bulletins
distributed:
4,031



USEF-Nepal welcomes information and representatives from US colleges! We can arrange school visits and can offer our fully equipped auditorium to college representatives for presentations. Feel free to contact us for any information regarding the educational system in Nepal. We are happy to be of help to your college.